United Nations A/CONF.217/4

General Assembly

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United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty
New York, 2-27 July 2012

Report of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/48 of 23 December 2009, the General Assembly decided to convene a United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty to meet for four consecutive weeks in 2012 to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening and duration of the Conference

2. The United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 27 July 2012. The Conference was opened and addressed on 3 July 2012 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At the same meeting, Roberto García Moritán (Argentina) was elected President of the Conference. Daniël Prins of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.217/INF/1.

B. Rules of procedure

3. At its 1st meeting, on 3 July, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure (A/CONF.217/L.1).

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C. Agenda

4. Also at the 1st meeting, on 3 July, the Conference adopted the agenda (A/CONF.217/L.2) as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
6. Adoption of the agenda.
7. Election of officers other than the President.
8. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Conference.
9. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
10. General exchange of views.
11. Statements by:
   (a) Representatives of intergovernmental organizations;
   (b) Representatives of non-governmental organizations.
12. Organization of work.
13. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee by the Chair of the Preparatory Committee.
14. Reports of the Main Committees.
15. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Conference.
16. Other matters.
17. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

D. Officers

5. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

President:

Roberto García Moritán (Argentina)

Vice-Presidents:

Australia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Egypt
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Republic of Korea
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Switzerland
Ukraine

E. Documentation

6. The documents of the Conference are listed in the annex to the present report.

III. Credentials

7. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.217/L.1), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, the Conference appointed China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Maldives, Panama, the Russian Federation, Senegal and the United States of America as members of its Credentials Committee.

8. At its 17th meeting, on 27 July, the Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/CONF.217/3), thereby approving the report of the Credentials Committee. In that report, the Committee had accepted the credentials of the representatives of Member States to the Conference.

IV. Report of the Conference to the General Assembly

9. At its 6th meeting, on 9 July, on the proposal of the President, the Conference approved its provisional programme of work for two weeks, from 9 to 20 July, by which it established two main committees, namely Main Committee 1, chaired by Bouchaib El oumni (Morocco), and Main Committee 2, chaired by Paul van den Ijssel (Netherlands), to conduct negotiations on the elements of the arms trade treaty.

10. The Conference also held informal meetings from 6 to 27 July 2012.

11. At its 15th meeting, on 26 July, the President submitted, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, the text of a draft arms trade treaty contained in document A/CONF.217/CRP.1.

12. At its 17th meeting, on 27 July, the Conference adopted the present report by consensus.

Annex

Documentation

The Conference had before it the following documents:

A/CONF.217/1	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty
A/CONF.217/2 and Add.1	Compilation of views on the elements of an arms trade treaty
A/CONF.217/3	Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.217/L.1	Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference
A/CONF.217/L.2	Draft provisional agenda of the Conference
A/CONF.217/CRP.1	Draft text of the arms trade treaty submitted by the President
A/CONF.217/CRP.2	Draft report of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty
A/CONF.217/INF/1	List of participants